



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

July 6, 2005

Mark McClellan, Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Dr. McClellan:

Re: *IowaCare: Rebalancing for Increased Community Capacity, Access, and Choice*—an application from the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, Department of Human Services for an FY 05 Real Choice Systems Transformation grant

As you know, passage this spring of the IowaCare Act is a milestone in the history of publicly funded healthcare in this state and the nation. Speaking for our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, who worked so hard with your office and with Governor Vilsack's administration to craft this Medicaid reform package, we would like to express our appreciation for the flexibility and creativity CMS has demonstrated in this initiative...

Now comes the challenge of making it happen. We sign this letter on the day that the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise opens for business, with the mission of addressing the health care needs of a larger, more diverse population, with the highest standards of quality and efficiency, employing cutting edge technology and policy innovations that will fundamentally alter systems of critical support for our most vulnerable citizens.

The IowaCare Act establishes basic principles governing the options that will be available to older Iowans and people with disabilities who need long term care. Implementation of some of those mandates begins immediately. The delivery systems involved are complex, however, and our ultimate chance for success in redesign requires that planning be comprehensive, analytical and data-driven, and responsive to the interests of many stakeholders. So it is with great enthusiasm that we extend our support for this proposal, *IowaCare: Rebalancing for Increased Community Capacity, Access and Choice*, which will provide strategic funding to support our needs for information, technical assistance, program demonstrations, and overall coordination. Elements of the proposal's work plan which we regard as particularly key to successful systems redesign in Iowa include:

- Development of a plan for the expansion of home and community based options in long term supports for both people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and for older Iowans, with submission of that plan to your office, to the Legislature and to the Governor two years from today, July 1, 2007;
- Development of a plan for rate restructuring for services to people with MR/DD, for submission to the Legislature by January 1, 2007.

- Design and implementation of models for the use of Electronic Medical Records to improve the quality of care for those most at risk of institutionalization.
- Development of new program models in support of community living.

We who sign this letter have been some of the most actively involved, among our colleagues in the General Assembly, in issues related to long term care. We are united in our commitment to quality, consumer choice, cost-effectiveness, and fairness. As this proposal states at the outset, the State of Iowa is poised for significant changes in long term care. We believe strongly that *IowaCare: Rebalancing for Increased Community Capacity, Access and Choice* will provide essential support in designing the best possible system of care for our citizens. We look forward to legislative participation in the Systems Transformation Team that will guide the Strategic Planning process that will implement this project and lead to the development of a more coherent system of long term care supports in our state.

The following Legislators endorse the *IowaCare: Rebalancing for Increased Community Capacity, Access and Choice* proposal and have given permission to include their names on this letter.

Representative Mark Smith

Representative Ro Foege

Representative Deborah Berry

Representative Danny Carroll

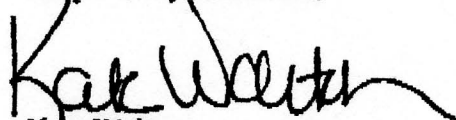
Representative Linda Upmeyer

Representative Dave Heaton

Representative Polly Granzow

We look forward to your favorable review of this important proposal.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate Walton

Iowa Department of Human Services Legislative Liaison